suitable for our country instead of importing such technology; and

(b) if so, the details of the such plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) In the policy statement for Abatement of Pollution industries are required to develop and apply the best available practicable technology, particularly clean technologies which produce low or no-waste for reducing the pollution load. While there is no plan of the Government to import any particular process or control technology, the industries may import relevant technologies.

Buying of American Environment Technology

2373. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to buy American environmental technologies;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it would include environmental audit, waste management, clean production, technologies, ground water remediation and technology for common effluent treatment etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) Steps have been initiated for obtaining financial assistance from the U.S. International Development Agency for pollution control projects. The details have not been finalised.

Water Quality Management for Damodar River System

2374. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI :

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that water quality management for the Damodar river system is causing havoc in the down stream area;

(b) whether this situation is man made; and

(c) if so, the steps to be taken to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) to (c) Pollution from domestic wastes coupled with untreated industrial discharge has resulted in the heavy pollution of the Damodar river. The Government have already taken a number of steps for control of pollution in the Damodar basin :—

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(ii) Environment guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;

(iii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated standards;

(iv) The Central Government, in consultation with the State Government, have prepared an action plan to meet the effluent and emission standards for polluting industries;

(v) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of polluting industries from congested areas;

(vi) Network of ambient air quality and ambient water quality monitoring stations have been set up;

(vii) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to cluster of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants;

(viii) A proposal has been prepared for including the cleaning up of the Damodar river in the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan. A commitment of the West Bengal Government sharing 50% of the cost has also been received.